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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Colombia

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SUBJECT Split in CTC

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The pro-Communist dissident group which split with the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Colombia (CTC) at its recent congress has adopted the name Confederacion de Trabajadores Colombianos Independientes (Independent CTC) and has requested personeria juridica from the Colombian Ministry of Labor. Propaganda activities have been initiated in Bucaramanga, Santander, where declarations of adherence have been obtained from a number of labor unions. This work is being carried out by the Communists Martin Camargo, Roso Osorio, Uriel Salas, Mercedes Romero, and Rafael Balcazar. Augusto Duran is working out of Barranquilla to spread propaganda in favor of the Independent CTC among the labor unions of the Atlantic coast and the Magdalena River ports.

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2. The other CTC group, which voted to break with Lombardo Toledano's CTAL, has been considering adopting the name Democratic CTC. The reason for these name changes is the fear on the part of both groups that an adverse decision by the Labor Court in the case pending against the CTC might be used by the government to dissolve the labor group known simply as CTC.
3. The government has not yet taken steps to recognize either of the CTC groups, much less grant personeria juridica to the pro-Communist group. The government's tactic at present is simply to ignore the existence of the CTC whose premises have been closed by the government and are not available for the use of either group. The government has designated Justiniano Espinosa of the Union de Trabajadores de Colombia (UTC) as Colombian delegate to the National Labor Office meeting to take place in Geneva in June. A further example of the government's ignoring the CTC lies in the fact that the UTC has the representation of Colombian labor on the Administrative Council of the Instituto Colombiano de Seguros Sociales. Thus, CTC unions are cut off from two important fields of activity.

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